

2005 Fairfax County Youth Survey



Implementation Team

Community Services Board

Fairfax Partnership for Youth

Community & Recreation
Services

Health Department

Department of Systems
Management for HS

Office of the County Executive
– Gang Prevention

Police Department

Office of Public Affairs

Fairfax County Public Schools

School – Community Coalitions



Steps in the Right Direction

- Cigarette smoking is down
- Marijuana use is down
- 6th graders at low risk in most areas
- Many opportunities for positive social involvement for youth and families in Fairfax County
- Binge drinking decreased



Our Challenges

- Age of onset/early drug use
- Use of inhalant use among 6th and 8th graders
- Use of prescription drugs/painkillers
- Depression impacting a significant number of youth / Strong correlation with substance use
- Gang members showing increased risk in all factors across all domains
- Use of alcohol, including drinking and driving



The Survey

- The same core survey as administered in 2001 and 2003
- Administered in December 2005 to 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th graders (first time administered to 6th graders)
- 14,427 students completed the survey. After filtering – 13,235 valid surveys



Survey Respondents

	<u>Respondents</u>	<u>FCPS Actual</u>
Male	45.9%	51.9%
Female	43.4%	48.1%
<i>No Response</i>	<i>2.4%</i>	
White	48.2%	50.2%
African American	8.0%	10.8%
Hispanic/Latino	11.4%	16.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	17.3%	17.5%
Other/Multiple	5.0%	5.6%
<i>No Response</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	

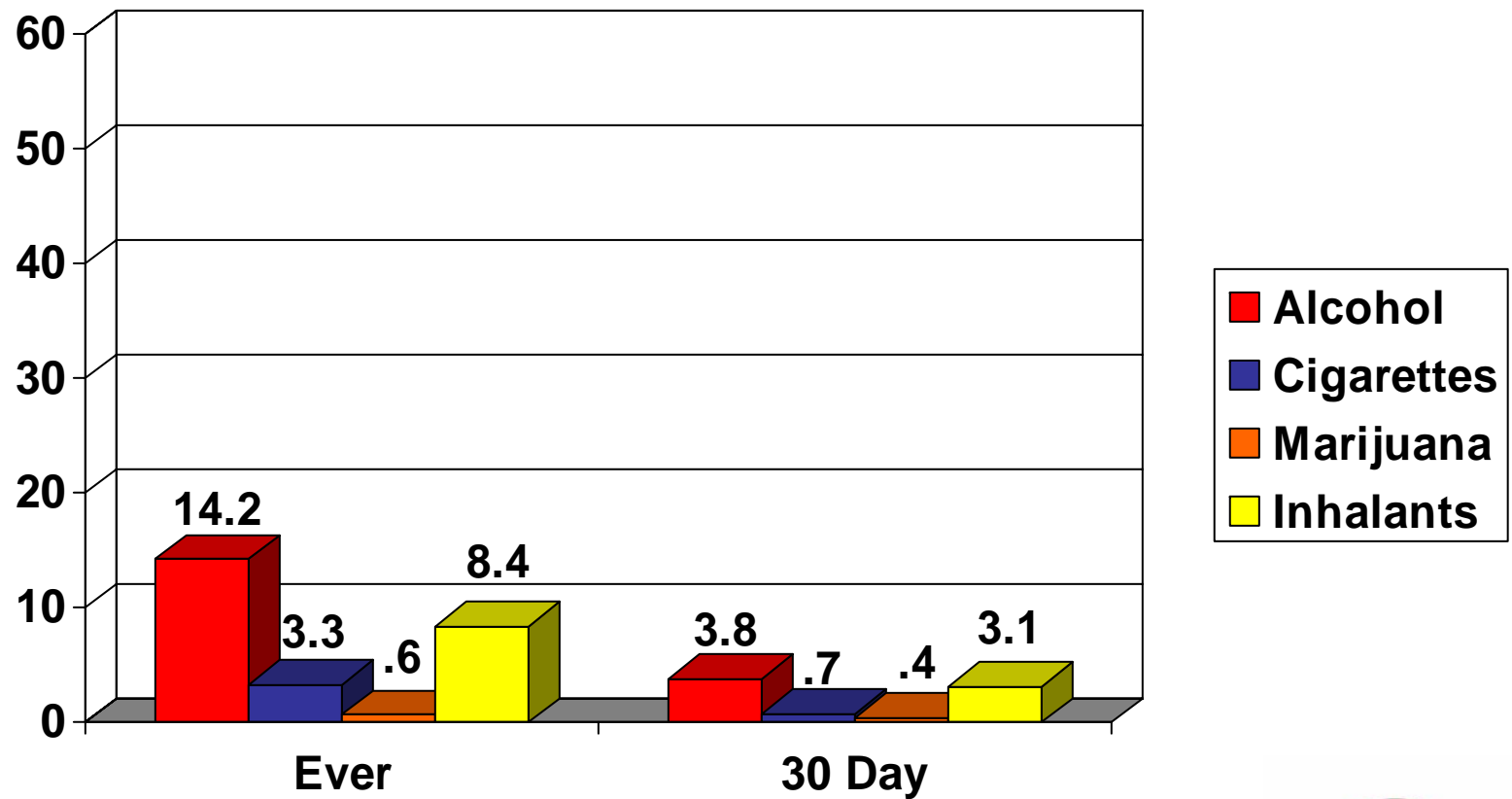


Survey Respondents

	<u>Respondents</u>	<u>FCPS Actual</u>	<u>% Surveyed</u>
6 th Grade	3,133	9,554	32.8%
8 th Grade	3,495	10,556	33.1%
10 th Grade	3,345	12,225	27.4%
12 th Grade	3,199	11,219	28.5%
<i>No Response</i>	<i>63</i>		
Total	13,235		30.2%



6th Grade Substance Use (%)



Substance Use



Substance Use in Fairfax County

Compared to National – Last 30 Day Use















	Fairfax			National			Fairfax County Above ↑ or Below ↓ National		
	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
Alcohol	16	29.5	47.9	17.1	33.2	47.0	↓	↓	↑
Binge Drinking*	5.3	11.6	26.1	10.5	21.0	28.1	↓	↓	↓
Cigarettes	3.3	8.2	18.2	9.3	14.9	23.2	↓	↓	↓
Inhalants	5.5	2.2	1.6	4.2	2.2	2.0	↑	=	↓
Marijuana	2.5	8.1	17.6	6.6	15.2	19.8	↓	↓	↓

* 5 or more drinks in the previous 2 weeks



Substance Use in Fairfax County

2001-2005 – Last 30 Day Use

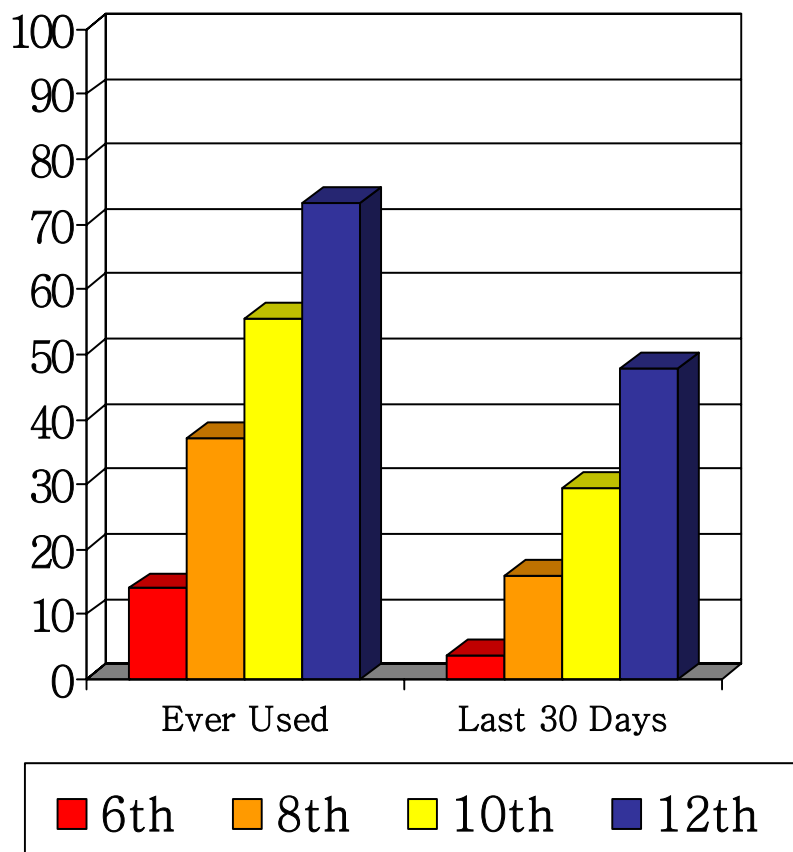
	Fairfax 2001			Fairfax 2005			Increased  Decreased 		
	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
Alcohol	21	36	53.4	16	29.5	47.9			
Binge Drinking*	7.5	17.3	31	5.3	11.6	26.1			
Cigarettes	9.3	15.4	29.6	3.3	8.2	18.2			
Inhalants	4.7	2.2	1.3	5.5	2.2	1.6		=	
Marijuana	5.1	13.3	22.4	2.5	8.1	17.6			

* 5 or more drinks in the previous 2 weeks



Alcohol Use –

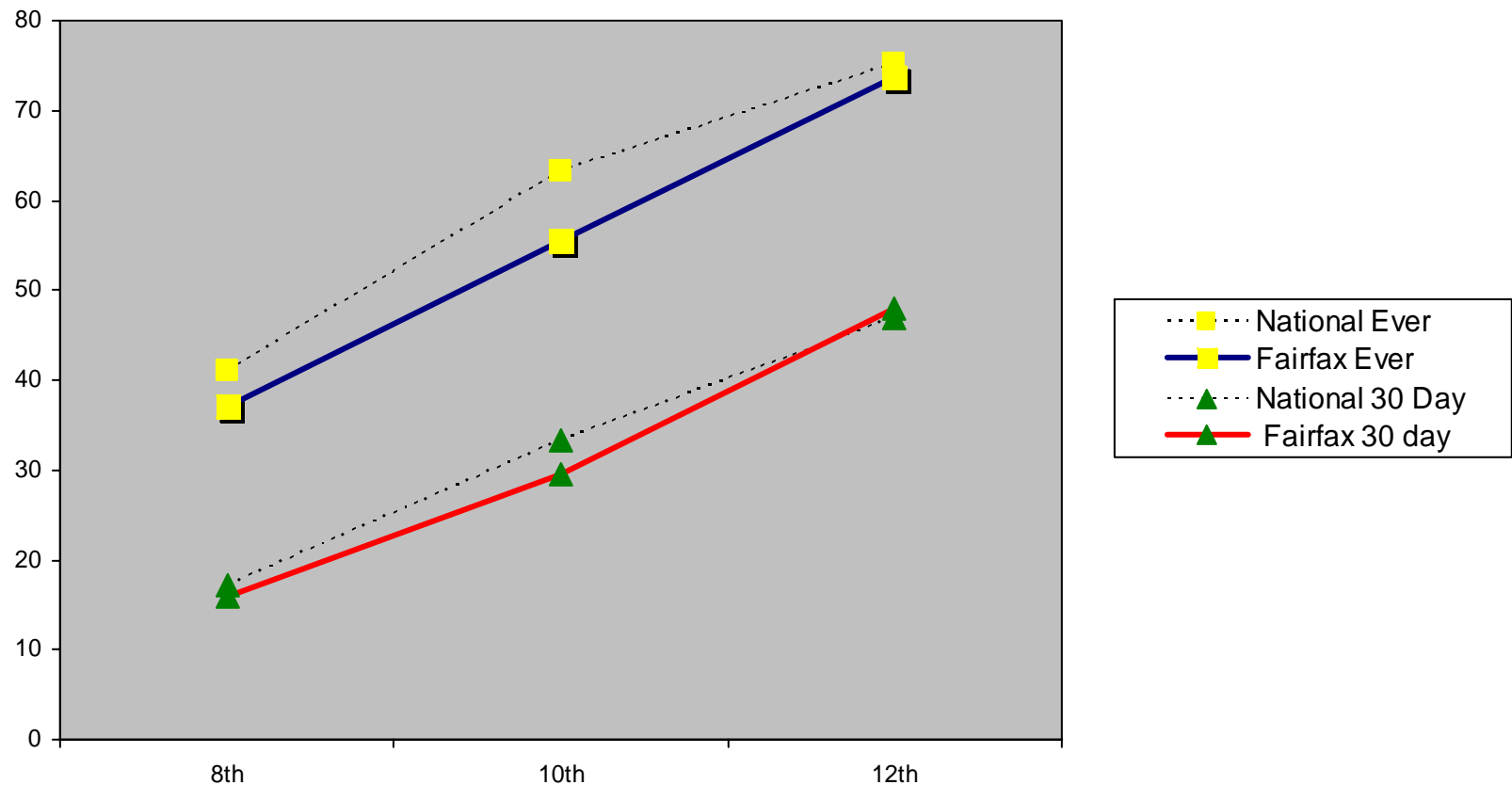
(%) Ever/Last 30 Days by Grade



- Alcohol is the most frequently used substance
- 73% of 12th graders have used alcohol
- 14% of 6th graders reported ever drinking alcohol



Alcohol Use - Comparison to National Data



Fairfax rates are generally lower than national rates, with the exception of 12th grade last 30 day use.



Substance Use

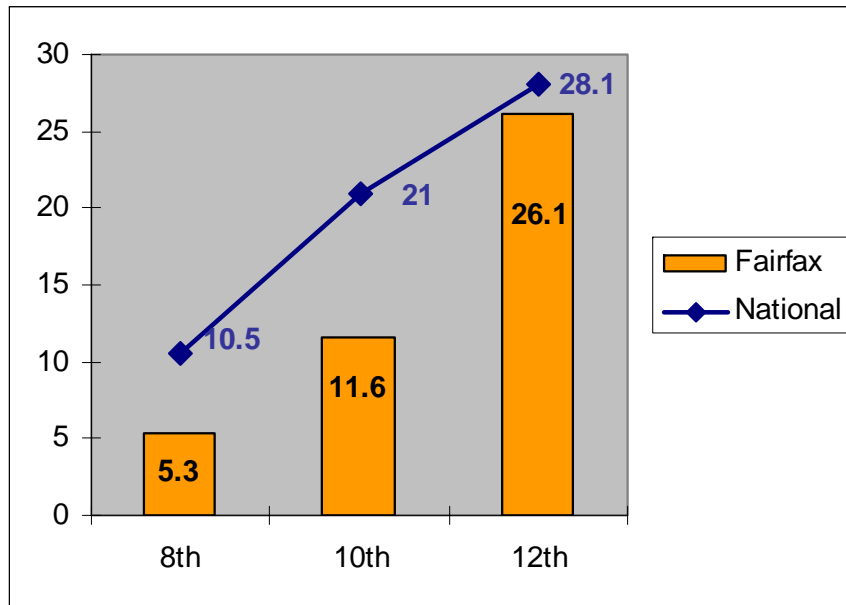


Alcohol – Key Findings

- 47.9% of 12th graders have used alcohol in the past 30 days
- Of those youth who have used alcohol, 45.7% of males and 34.5% of females first did so at age 12 or younger
- Whites and Latinos are nearly twice as likely as Asians and African Americans to use alcohol
- 16.8% of 12th graders came to school drunk or high in the past year



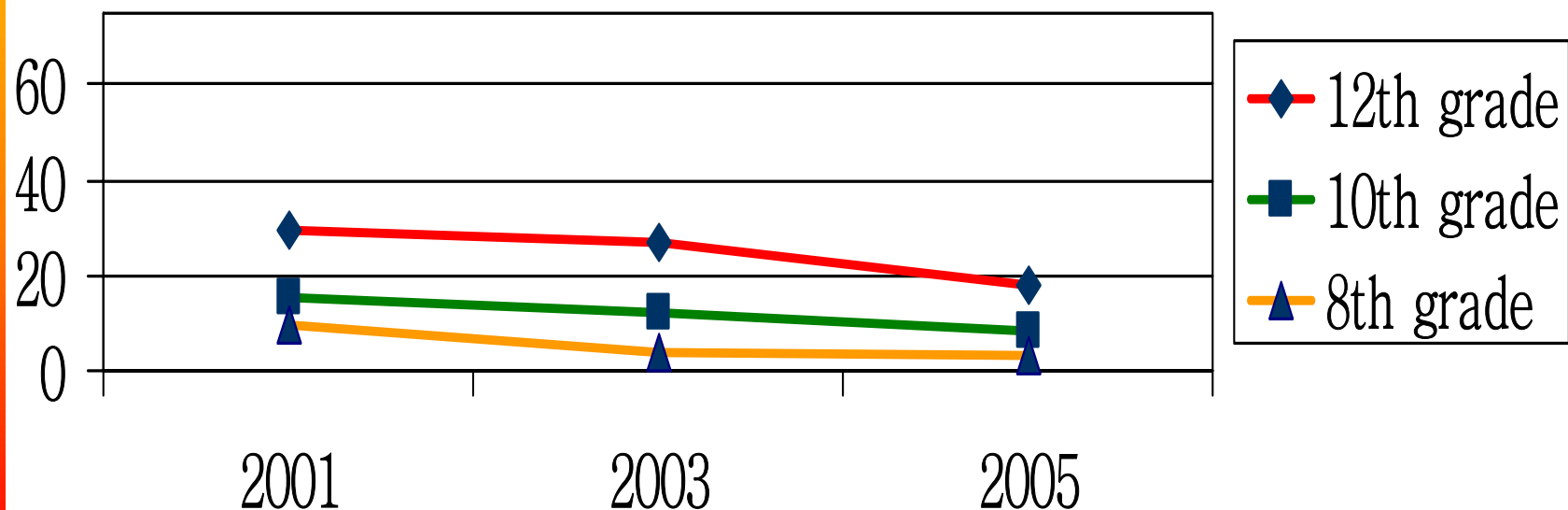
Binge Drinking – Defined as having 5 or more drinks in a row in the last two weeks



- 26% of 12th graders report binge drinking
- That number is down from:
 - 31% in 2001
 - 27.6% in 2003
- Twice as prevalent in White (12.9%) and Latino (13.6%) youth than in African American (7.6%) and Asian (6%) youth



Cigarette Use by Grade (% in last 30 days) 2001 – 2005



Cigarette smoking is the lowest it has been in 5 years, in all grades



Substance Use



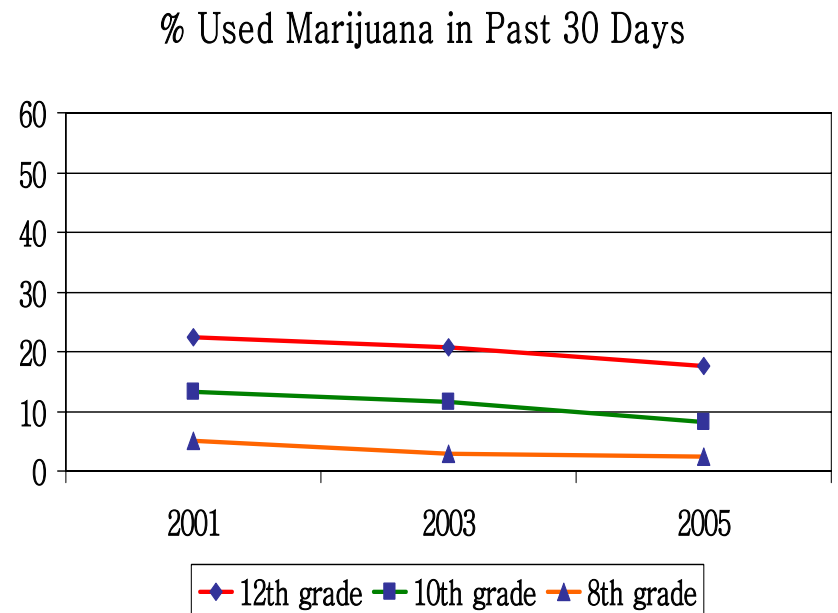
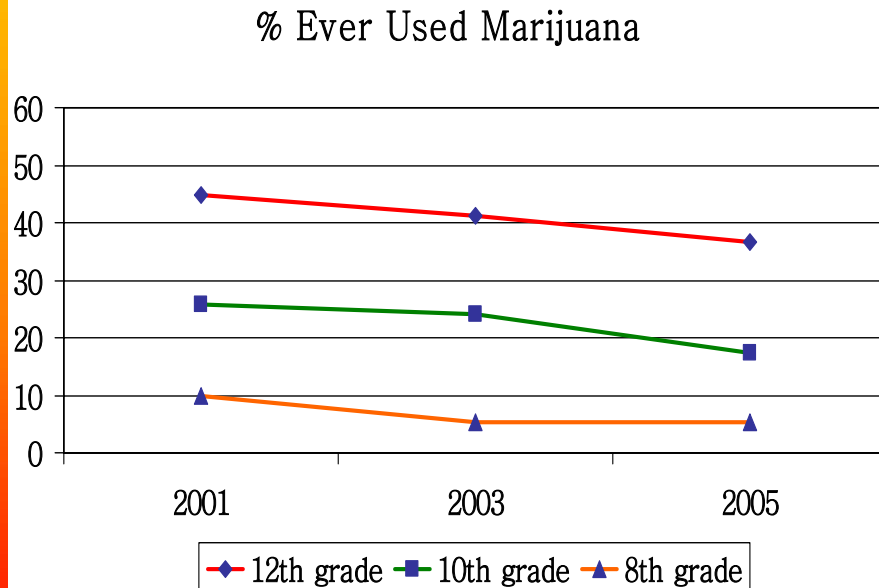
Smoking – Key Findings

- Of those youth who have smoked a cigarette, 44% of males and 35.6% of females first did so at age 12 or younger
- Latinos are slightly more likely to smoke than other groups (9.4%)
- Fairfax rates are lower than national rates, in all grades



Marijuana Use by Grade

2001 – 2005



Overall the number of youth who ever used marijuana has declined by 7% since 2001 and by 4.2% for last 30 day use



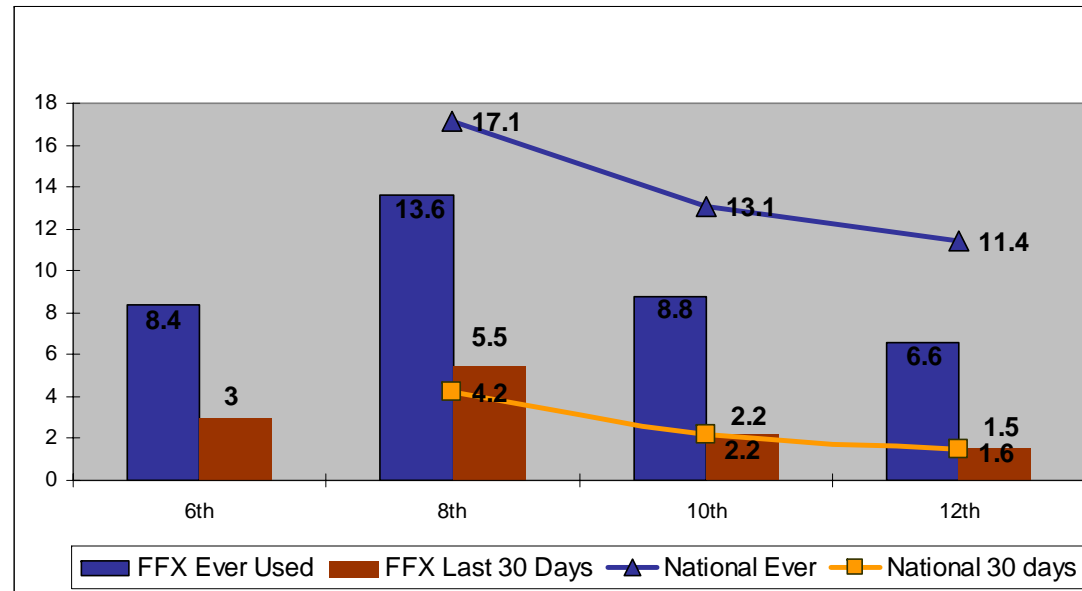
Marijuana Use – Key Findings

- 36% of 12th graders report ever using marijuana and 18% report use in the last 30 days
- Fairfax rates are lower than national rates, in all grades
- Of those youth who have used marijuana, 19% of males and 7.8% of females first did so at age 12 or younger



Inhalant Use (%)

Ever/Last 30 Days by Grade



- Inhalant use is **highest in 6th and 8th graders**
- Fairfax **8th grade use** of inhalants (last 30 day) is **above the national average**



Inhalant Use

- Inhalants are the 2nd most commonly used drug among 8th graders
 - ahead of both marijuana and cigarettes
 - 4th most commonly used nationally among 8th graders



Other Drugs – Key Findings

- Fairfax youth report little use of “other” drugs
- Less than 1% have used Methamphetamine or Ecstasy – low use of steroids and heroin, as well
- Prescription drugs and painkillers are the most commonly used “other drug” in Fairfax County
 - 6.2% of high school seniors report using a painkiller without a prescription in the past 30 days
 - 5.4% report using any other type of prescription drug, without a prescription in the past 30 days



Bullying and Aggression

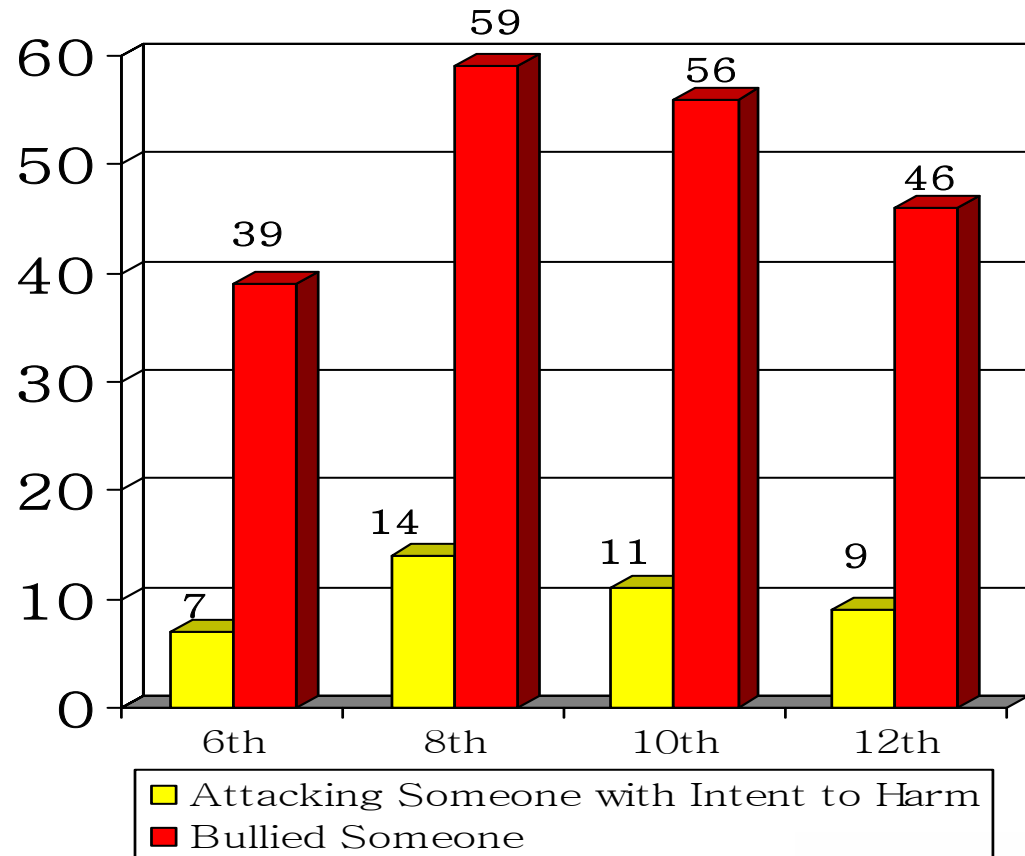
- 51% report that they have been bullied, taunted, ridiculed, or teased (10% report > 20 times)
- 14.1% report that they have bullied someone else on 10 or more occasions (compared to 18.8% in 2001)
- 35.8% report that someone said something bad about their race or culture
- 14% of 8th graders report that they have attacked someone with intent to harm (highest of all grades)
- 20% report they have been sexually harassed



Bullying and Aggression

% Attacking or Bullying Someone Else

Bullying and aggression are highest in 8th and 10th grade



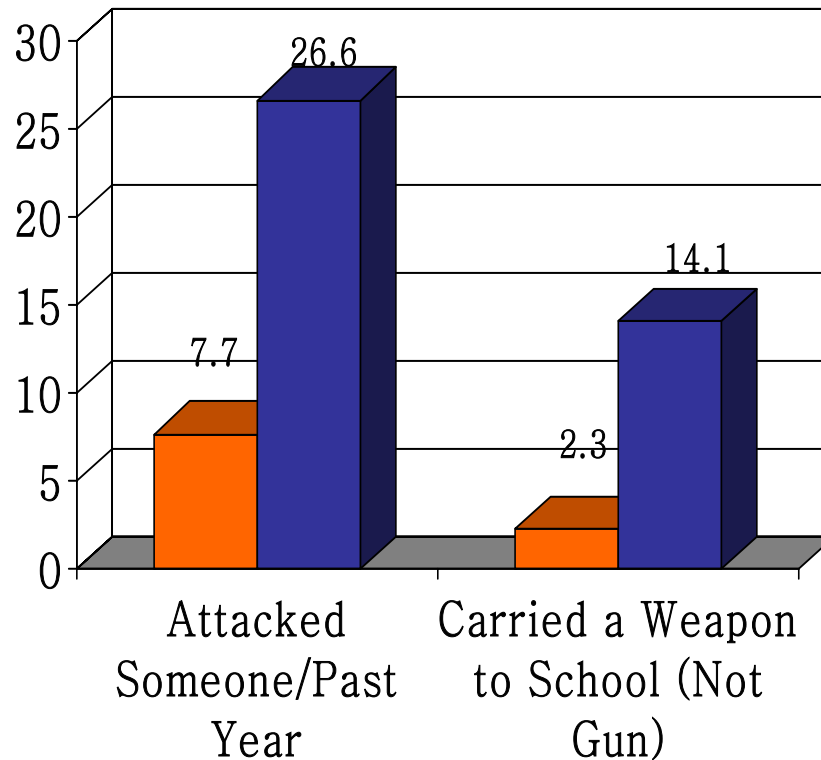
Bullying

Youth who report that they have been bullied are far more likely to report that they:

- Have carried a weapon
- Have used drugs, alcohol, or cigarettes in last 30 days
- Were lonely or depressed
- Have considered suicide



Drugs and Aggressive Behavior (%)



Youth who used drugs in the past 30 days were 3-6 times more likely to report attacking someone or carrying a weapon to school in the past year

■ No Illicit Drug Use in past 30 days ■ Illicit Drug Use in past 30 days



Gangs – Key Findings

- Number of youth reporting gang involvement is down (from 5.6% in 2001 to 2.8% in 2005)
- 44.9% of those who indicated that they were ever in a gang joined when they were age 12 or younger
- African Americans (6.8%) and Latinos (5.3%) are most likely to report gang membership
- Youth who report being in gangs are:
 - less likely to think there are chances to get involved in extracurricular activities
 - are more likely to work at a paid job



Vehicle Safety

- 74% of students report riding in a car without a seatbelt at some time, 23% do so regularly
- 27.4% have ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking
- 19.9% of those 16 and older have driven a car after drinking alcohol



Depression

“During the past 12 months felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities”

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2005</u>
8 th – 12 th Graders	34.9%	33.9%
Females	39.4%	40.1%
Males	30.2%	27.0%

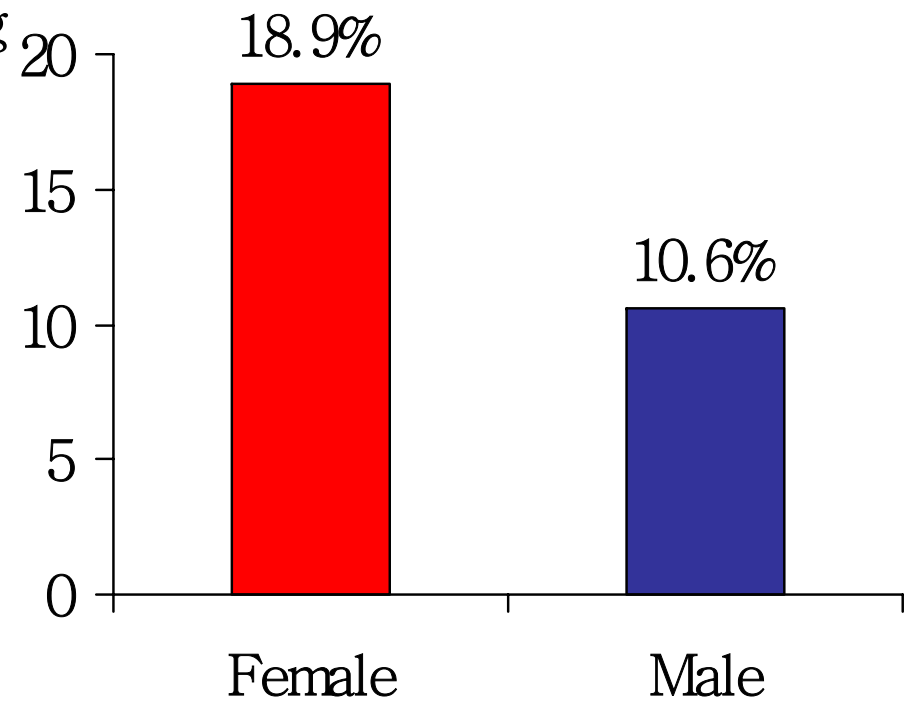


Ever Considered Suicide

15% of respondents reported ever considering attempting suicide

By Grade

8 th Grade	14.6%
10 th Grade	15.1%
12 th Grade	15.2%



National Comparison of 10th and 12th

	Fairfax County	Nationally (YRBS 2003)
Depression	10 th Grade 32.9% 12 th Grade 37%	10 th Grade 29.7% 12 th Grade 27.4%
Considered Suicide	10 th Grade 14.7% 12 th Grade 14.9%	10 th Grade 16.3% 12 th Grade 14.9%

Using the CDC's 2003 Youth Risk Behavior Survey for comparison, we see that the number of Fairfax County youth considering suicide is similar to national rates. However, Fairfax youth are more like to report depression than their peers nationally.



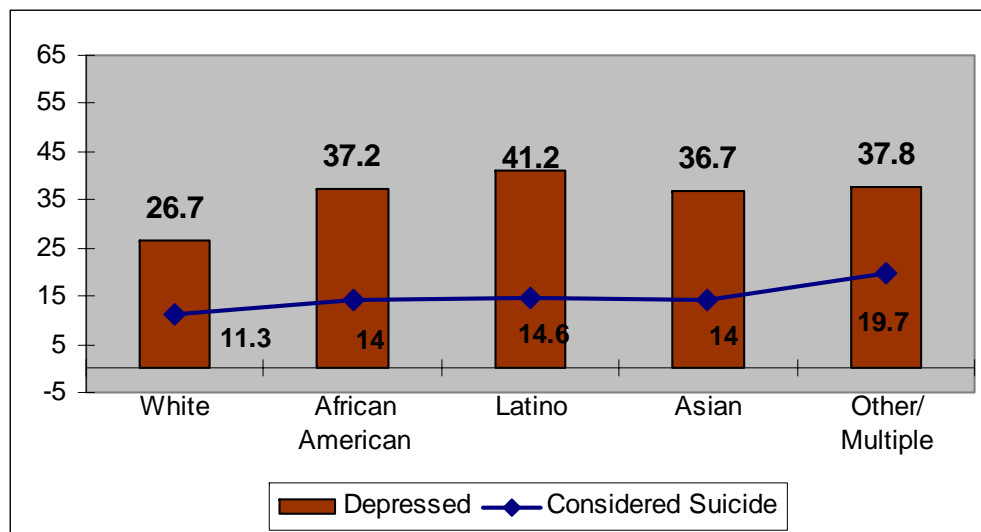
** Please note that this is not included in the report and is only used as a resource for looking at comparable national statistics.*

Mental Health



Depression/Considering Suicide – Key Findings

Races/ethnicities
other than white are
more likely to report
feeling depressed



Youth who reported that they had
considered **suicide** were **nearly twice as
likely** to report **illicit drug use** in the past 30
days



What do our youth do with their free time?

84% report participating in extracurricular activities

96% report doing fun things with their families

81% report being involved in religious activities or volunteer work

57% report spending time at home without any adults present – 1 or more hours a day



What do our youth do with their free time?

- 89.7% report that there are lots of chances to get involved in extra-curricular activities
- Youth who speak a language other than English at home are less likely to perceive that these activities are available for them



Risk and Protective Factors

- **Risk Factors** help us explain circumstances that may increase the likelihood of problem behaviors
- **Protective Factors** can help increase resiliency to drug abuse and problem behaviors are believed to buffer youth from risk.



Risk and Protective Factors

5 Domains

- Community Domain
- Family Domain
- School Domain
- Peer Domain
- Individual Domain



Risk Factor Findings

Highest percentage of respondents above the national average in the following areas:

- Peer-individual attitudes favorable to antisocial behavior
- Sensation seeking
- Parental attitudes favorable to antisocial behavior
- Family conflict
- Low school commitment
- Transitions and mobility



Protective Factor Findings

Highest percentage of respondents above the national average in the following areas:

- Peer-individual social skills
- Community opportunities for pro-social involvement
- School opportunities for pro-social involvement
- Peer-individual religiosity
- Family rewards for pro-social involvement



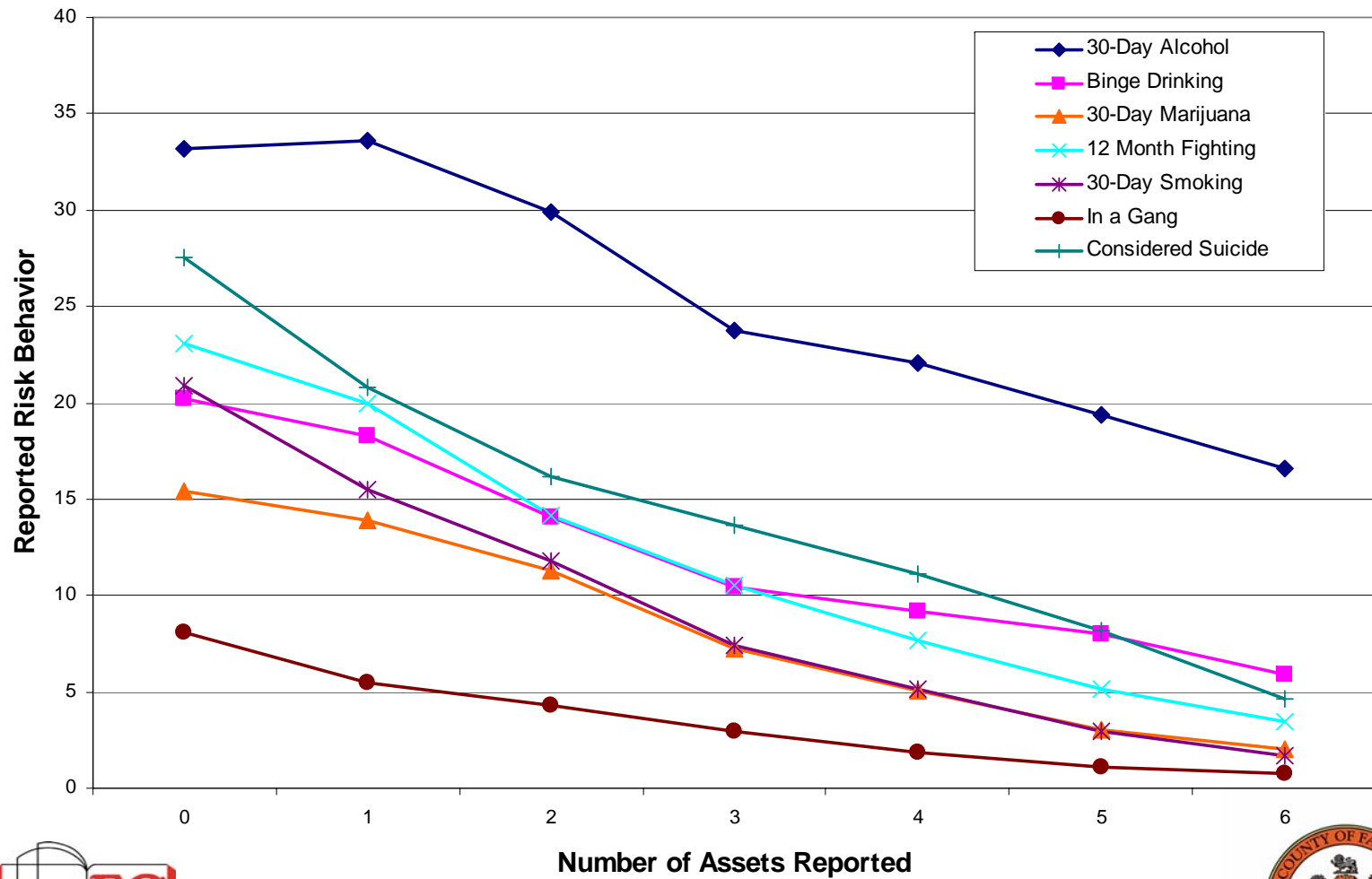
Risk Factors and Gangs

% at High Risk:	Overall	Ever in a Gang
Low Neighborhood Attachment	34.9	52.4
Community Disorganization	31.8	65.5
Family Management	37.4	63.5
School Academic Failure	37.4	68.6
Peer-individual sensation seeking	42.5	77.2

Youth reporting “ever been in gangs” had substantially elevated scores for ALL risk factors



Relationship Between Risk Behaviors and Number of Assets



Looking Ahead

- Consider the assets and protective factors of our youth, families, schools, and communities
- Continue our work in substance abuse and violence prevention
- Address the depression and suicide risk findings
- Risk behaviors are complex and interrelated
- Consider the needs, risks, strengths, and assets of subpopulations
 - Race/ethnicity
 - Geographic
 - Gender
 - Age



Gaps Identified

- No data on health-related issues such as personal health, eating disorders, obesity, and sexual behavior
- The 2007 survey will assess these issues, as directed by the Board of Supervisors

Note: State law only allows questions related to sexual behavior for those students in 8th grade or above



Using Survey Results

- Share results with key stakeholder groups including FPY, CSB, School/Community Coalitions, etc.
- “Everyone’s Child – Then and Now” publication
- Youth “Speak Outs” and youth press conference
- Disseminate information to community groups
- Use data on youth behaviors and risk/protective factors to assess and enhance effectiveness of programs and services



Using Survey Results

- Analyze key survey findings and coordinate with other county, school, and community priorities and strategic goals
- Use this data to develop priorities and a guiding strategy for ongoing system-wide prevention efforts

